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# Arends Gives U2 Pilot Clean Bill-of-Health

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WASHINGTON — Rep. Leslie C. Arends (R-Ill.) of Melvin, top-ranking Republican on the House Armed Services committee, gives U2 Pilot Francis Gary Powers a clean bill-of-health.

"Continuing testimony before our special subcommittee has removed any doubt which may have existed in some people's minds that Powers was — and is — a fine, loyal American," said Arends. His special subcommittee heard CIA Director John McCone report for several hours last week on Powers' story of being shot down over Russia.

"I am well satisfied with the report given us by McCone," said the Midwest legislator. "Powers' experience was very thoroughly and intelligently gone into by experts in his debriefing. From the information given us he followed the instructions given him and handled himself as well as anyone could have expected."

## Not Satisfied

Arends is not so satisfied, however, with the action of Defense Secretary Robert McNamara in holding back appropriated funds for the U-2 program, now called the "A-119" because of its electronics system.

"The Defense Department is telling us that no matter what we appropriate, they'll spend what they want to — and won't spend what they don't want to," he said. "This goes far beyond just the releasing of those many hundreds of millions of dollars. It is a constitutional principle."

Rep. Carl Vinson (D-Ga.), chairman of the Armed Services Committee which voted unanimously to demand release of the funds, has called for a showdown on the House floor when a new authorization, for billions for ships, planes,

missiles and other hardware comes up next week.

## Back Chairman

"I will back the chairman," Arends asserted.

The lawmaker at week's end also strongly endorsed President Kennedy's announcement that the United States will resume atmospheric nuclear weapons testing.

"I'm one of those who has been urging resumption of such testing," he said. "I took that position after I heard closed-door testimony of our outstanding military leaders. All, without equivocation, have urged resumption at the earliest possible moment. One outstanding military leader has emphasized that he knows of no other such leader who does not favor such resumption."

Premier Khrushchev this week sharply criticized the lack of progress with Russia's agriculture program.

"This Russian farm situation points up how superior our system of government is to that advocated by the Communists," Arends commented.